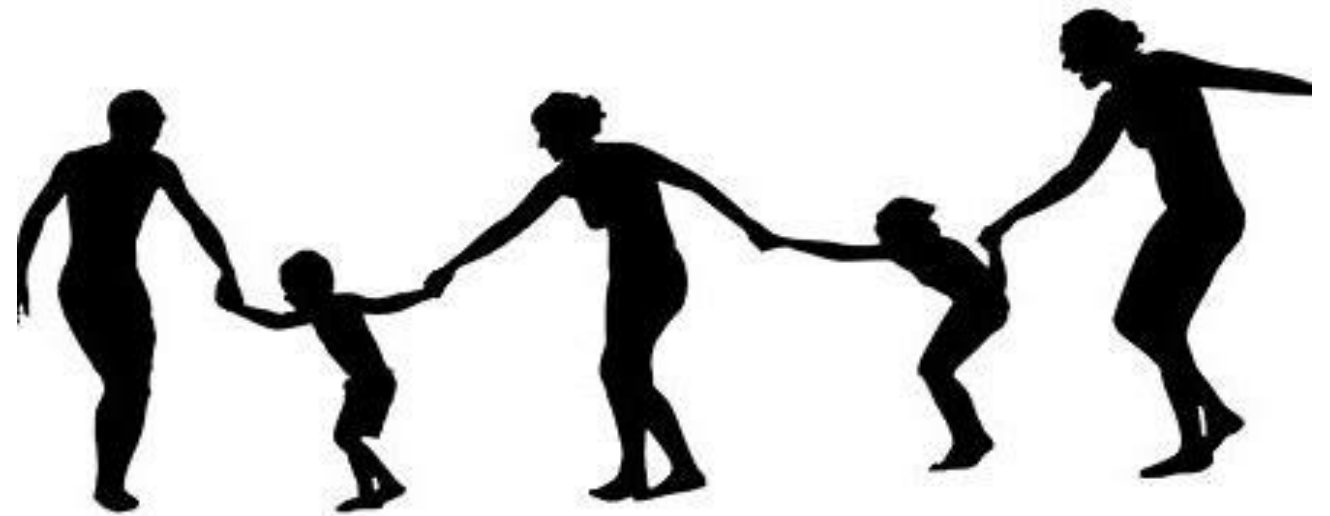


# It's Family Time!

## Parent-Child Interactions by Race and Hispanic Origin Before and After the COVID-19 Pandemic

Yerís H. Mayol-García, Ph.D. & PMP  
U.S. Census Bureau  
PAA 2023 New Orleans, LA



# Agenda

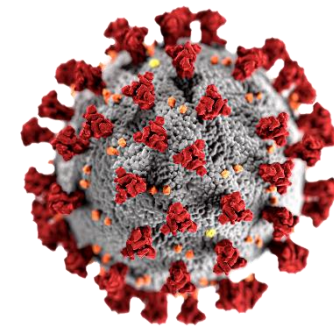
- Introduction
- Research questions
- Data and methods
- Results
- Conclusions

❖ Note: This presentation is structured slightly different than the full paper for brevity



# Introduction

- Parental involvement has positive effects for children and parents
- Family structure and socioeconomic characteristics may create challenges or advantages for parental engagement
  - Role these factors play can vary by race and ethnicity
- COVID-19 pandemic:
  - Shocked family routines
  - Disproportionately affected minorities



# Research questions

- 1) Do the associations between parental involvement and socioeconomic characteristics vary by race and Hispanic origin?
- 2) Did the COVID-19 pandemic change the relationships between parental involvement, socioeconomic characteristics, and race and Hispanic origin?



# Data and universe

- Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)
  - 2018: A pre-COVID 19 benchmark less affected by high nonresponse rates and nonresponse bias
  - 2021: Relevant for current parental involvement trends
  
- Universe: Reference parents of children



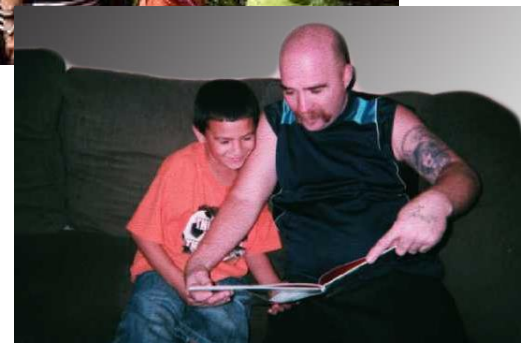
# Methods

- Descriptive statistics
- Logistic regression models per outcome
  - Interactions of characteristics by race and ethnicity
  - Research Question 2: Combined 2018 and 2021 data with a year variable
- Technical: SAS 9.4, weighted public-use data, person and replicate weights

# Parental engagement outcomes

Reference parents were asked **how many times in a typical week** they had dinner, went on outings and read to their children. Recoded as:

- **Frequent dinners:** 5+ weekly dinners with children ages 0-17
- **Frequent outings:** 2+ weekly outings with children ages 0-5 to a park, library, zoo, store, church, restaurant, or family gathering
- **Frequent reading:** 5+ weekly reading to children ages 0-5 by parent or another family member



# Variables

- Race (non-Hispanic alone) and Hispanic origin: White, Black, Asian, Other (includes American Indian and Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, and 2+ races), Hispanic
- Material hardship: Household experienced any food, housing, or bill-paying hardship
- Work status: Full-time (35+ hrs.), part-time (1-34 hrs.), no work
- Other variables: Age, coupled (living with spouse or partner), extra adults in household, education, citizenship, neighborhood hardship





# Results

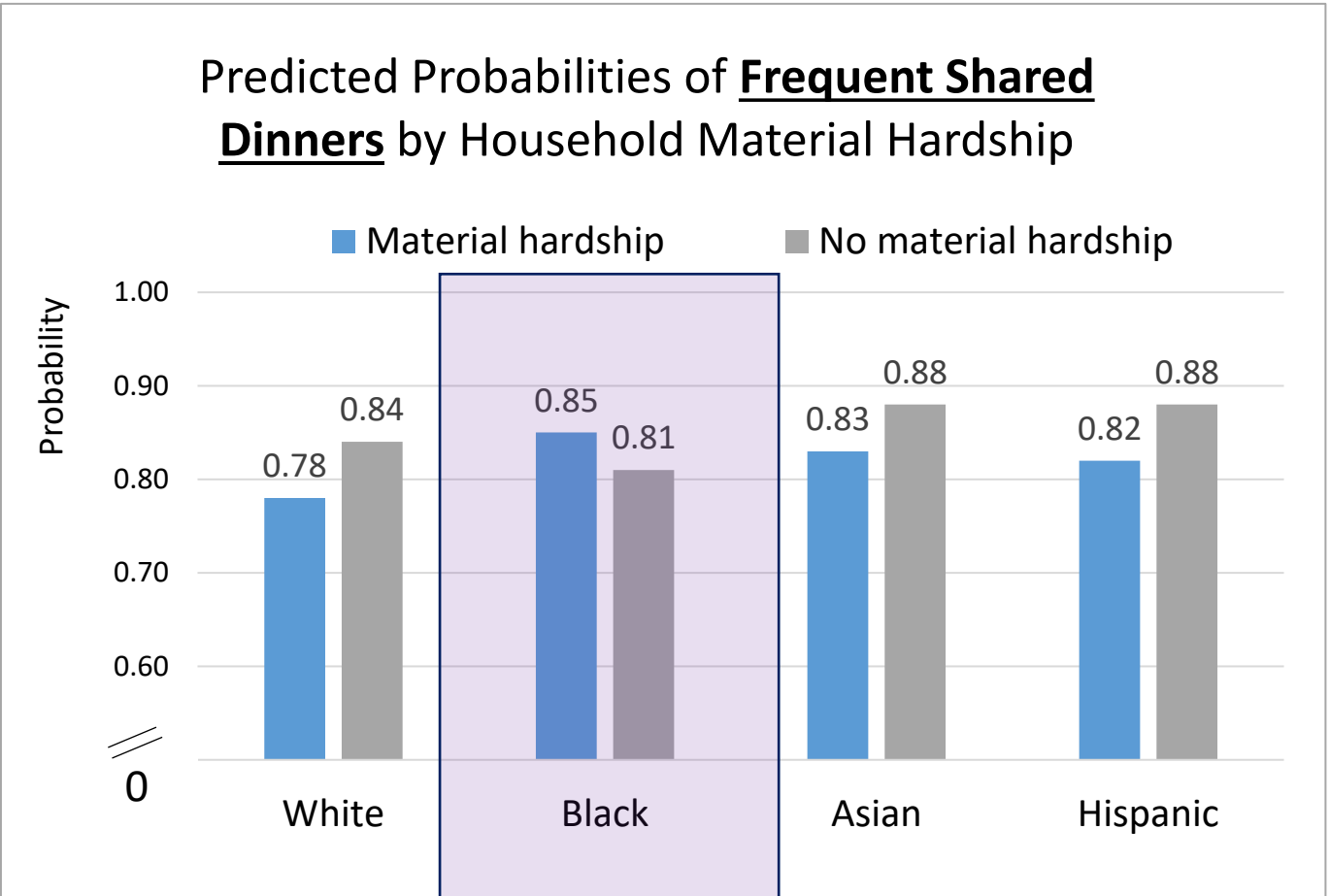
**Table 1. Parental Involvement Rates by Race and Hispanic Origin, SIPP 2018**

| Race and Hispanic Origin of reference parents     | 5+ dinners per week | 2+ outings per week | 5+ reading per week |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|   | Percent             | Percent             | Percent             |
| <i>Number of reference parents (in thousands)</i> | 40,863              | 17,389              | 17,389              |
| <b>All reference parents</b>                      | <b>83.8</b>         | <b>85.1</b>         | <b>65.4</b>         |
| Non-Hispanic White alone                          | 82.4                | 86.8                | 73.3                |
| Non-Hispanic Black alone                          | 81.9                | 83.6                | 58.0                |
| Non-Hispanic Asian alone                          | 89.3                | 82.8                | 71.4                |
| Non-Hispanic Other race                           | 80.2                | 83.1                | 59.5                |
| Hispanic (any race)                               | 87.2                | 83.0                | 51.0                |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation 2018 (weighted public-use data).

Notes:  $p < 0.10$ . **Blue:** Higher than all parents. **Orange:** Lower than all parents.

# The role of material hardship differed for dinners by race and ethnicity



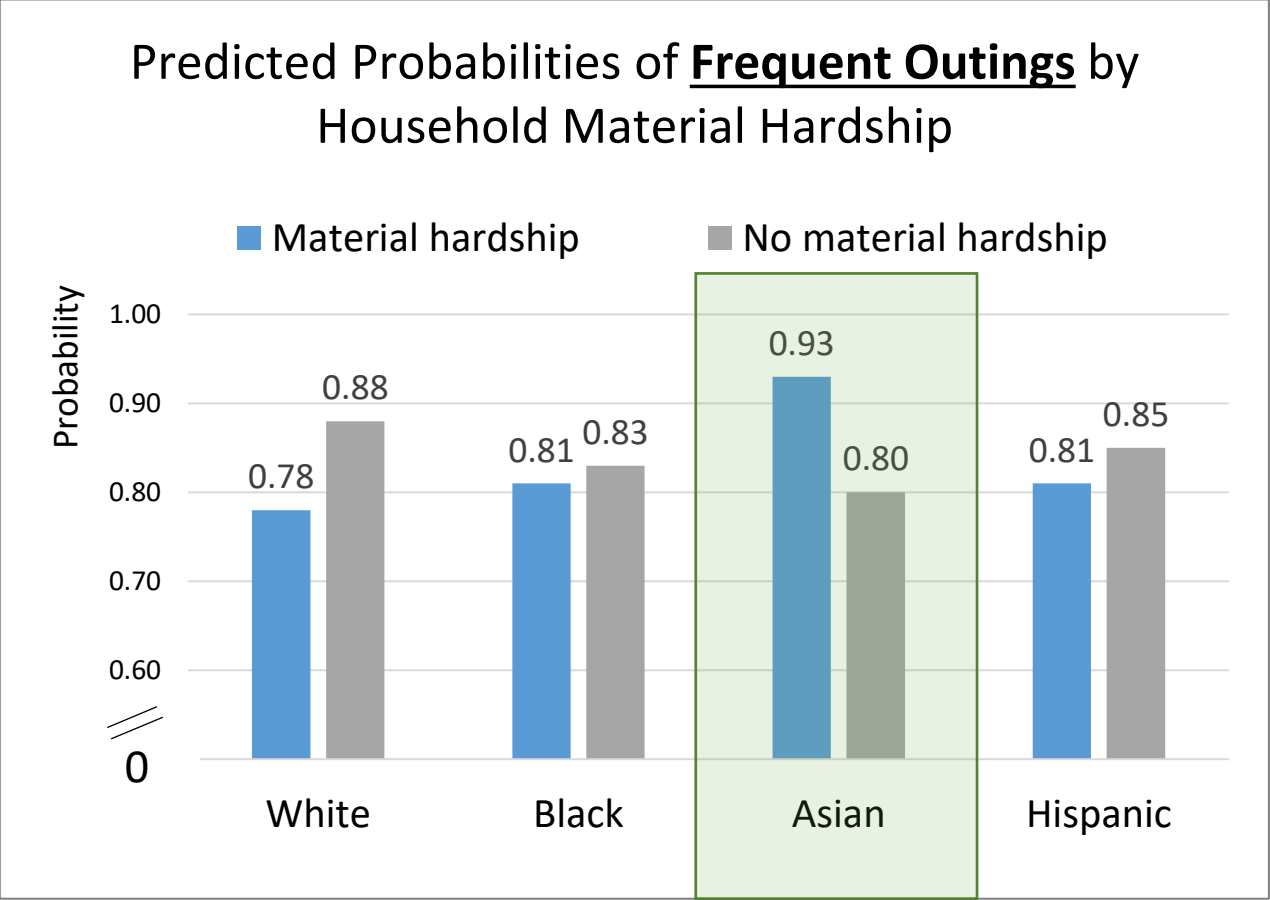
After controlling for characteristics and including interaction terms:

Black parents who experienced material hardship had a higher predicted probability (85%) of frequently dining with their own children than other Black parents



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation 2018 (weighted public-use data)  
Note: Probabilities based on logistic regression results with interaction terms where the reference parent characteristics correspond to a mean age, citizen, partnered, no extra adults, less than a BA, working full-time, and no neighborhood hardship

# The role of material hardship differed for outings by race and ethnicity



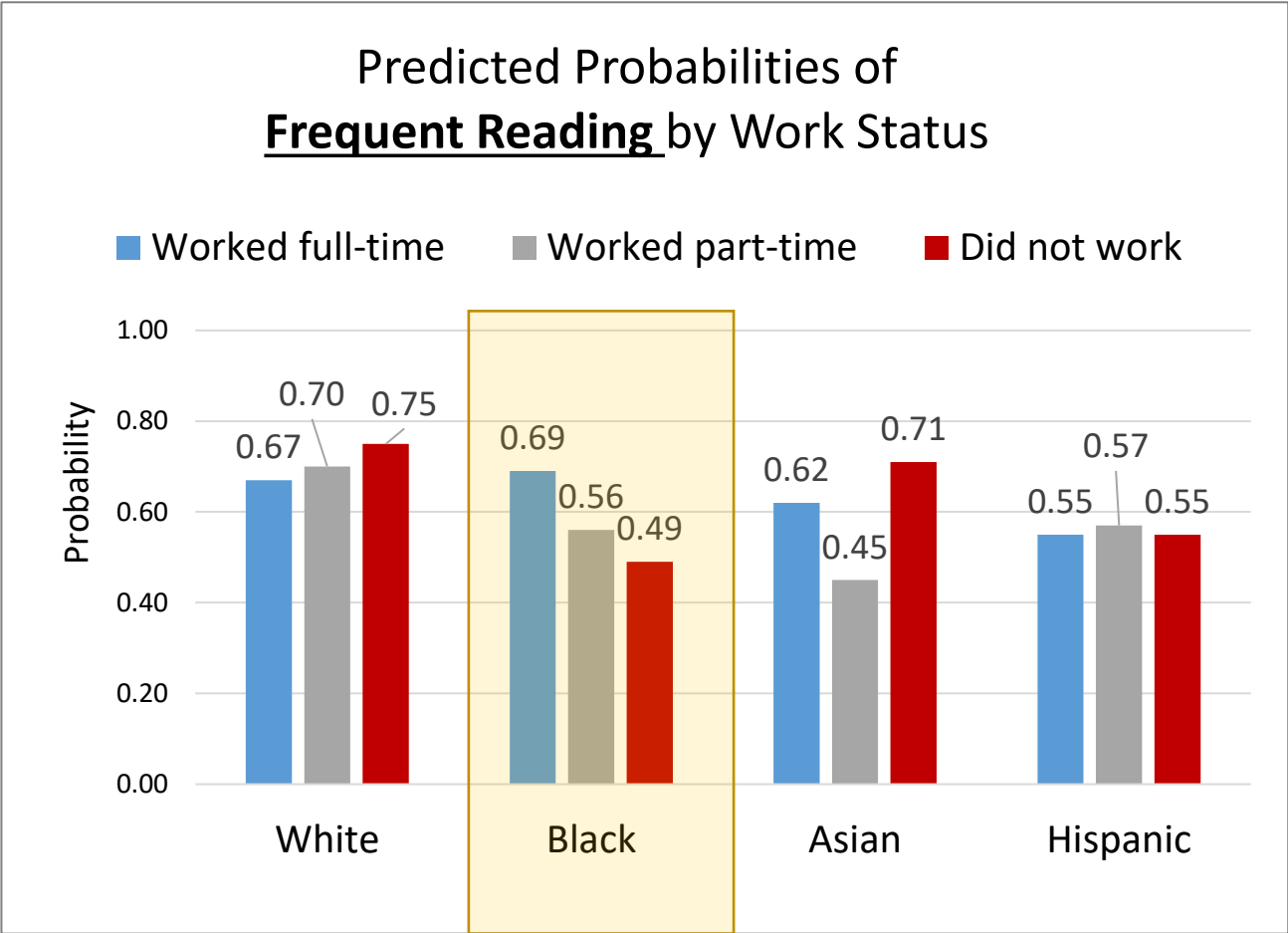
After controlling for characteristics and including interaction terms:

The highest probability of taking children on frequent outings was 93% for Asian parents who experienced material hardship



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation 2018 (weighted public-use data)  
Note: Probabilities based on logistic regression results with interaction terms where the reference parent characteristics correspond to a mean age, citizen, partnered, no extra adults, less than a BA, working full-time, and no neighborhood hardship

# The role of work status differed for reading by race and ethnicity



After controlling for characteristics and including interaction terms:

Among Black parents, full-time working parents had the highest predicted probability (69%) of frequently reading to children



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation 2018 (weighted public-use data)  
 Note: Probabilities based on logistic regression results with interaction terms where the reference parent characteristics correspond to a mean age, citizen, partnered, no extra adults, less than a BA, working full-time, and no neighborhood hardship

# What about COVID-19?

- In the full models, compared with 2018, parents in 2021 were:
  - **1.3 times more likely to have frequent dinners**
  - **53% less likely to go on frequent outings**
  - Similarly engaged with children by race and ethnicity and other characteristics
- Non-significant results for **reading** and interactions between year and race and ethnicity

# Conclusions

- Parents were highly engaged with children, but levels varied by race and ethnicity
- Role of socioeconomic characteristics, especially **material hardship** and **work status**, on parental engagement differed by race and ethnicity
- COVID-19 suppressed outings while increasing the frequency of dinners

**Contact Info:**

Yerís H. Mayol-García, Ph.D. and PMP

Fertility and Family Statistics Branch

U.S. Census Bureau

Email: [Yeris.h.mayol.Garcia@census.gov](mailto:Yeris.h.mayol.Garcia@census.gov)



**SEHSD**  
Social, Economic,  
and Housing  
Statistics Division